Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A gene transfer vector ~~containing~~ comprising an exogenous gene encapsulated in a native virus envelope.

2. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to claim 1, wherein the virus is derived from a wild-type virus or a recombinant-type virus.

3. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the virus is derived from a virus belonging to a family selected from the group consisting of [[:]] Retroviridae, Togaviridae, ~~Cornoviridae~~Coronaviridae, Flaviviridae, Paramyxoviridae, Orthomyxoviridae, Bunyaviridae, Rhabdoviridae, Poxviridae, Herpesviridae, Baculoviridae, and Hepadnaviridae.

4. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to claim 3, wherein the virus is HVJ.

5. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 [[to 4]], wherein the gene transfer vector is prepared by a method which comprises the steps of:

mixing the virus with an exogenous gene; and

freezing and thawing the mixture two or more times.

6. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 [[to 4]], wherein the vector is prepared by a method which comprises a step of mixing the virus with an exogenous gene in the presence of a detergent.

7. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the method further comprises a step of inactivating the virus.

8. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to claim 7, wherein the

detergent is selected from the group consisting of octylglucoside, Triton-X100, CHAPS and NP-40.

9. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to claim 8, wherein the detergent is octylglucosidase.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 10~~ for introducing a gene into animal in vivo tissue.

12. (currently amended) A~~The~~ gene transfer vector according to claim 11, wherein the tissue is selected from the group consisting of[[:]] the liver, skeletal muscles, the uterus, brain, eyes, carotid arteries, skin, blood vessels, the lung, the heart, kidneys, the spleen, cancer tissue, nerves, B lymphocytes, and respiratory tract tissue.

13. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for gene therapy which comprises ~~the~~ a gene transfer vector ~~according to claims 1 to 12~~ comprising an exogenous gene encapsulated in a native virus envelope.

14. (currently amended) A kit for screening gene libraries, which comprises ~~the~~ a gene transfer vector ~~according to claims 1 to 12~~ comprising an exogenous gene encapsulated in a native virus envelope.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method for preparing a gene transfer vector comprising an exogenous gene encapsulated in a native virus envelope for gene transfer, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

mixing the virus with ~~an~~the exogenous gene in the presence of a detergent.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for introducing a gene into isolated animal tissue,

wherein the method comprises the steps of:

preparing a gene transfer vector ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 12, containing~~ comprising an exogenous gene encapsulated in a native virus envelope ~~a desired exogenous gene~~; and

introducing ~~a~~the exogenous gene into the isolated animal tissue via the gene transfer vector.

19. (canceled)

20. (new) The gene transfer vector according to claim 6, wherein the method further comprises a step of inactivating the virus.

21. (new) The gene transfer vector according to claim 20, wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of octylglucoside, Triton-X100, CHAPS and NP-40.

22. (new) The gene transfer vector according to claim 21, wherein the detergent is octylglucoside.

23. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the virus is derived from a wild-type or a recombinant-type virus.

24. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the virus is derived from a virus belonging to a family selected from the group consisting of Retroviridae, Togaviridae, Coronaviridae, Flaviviridae, Paramyxoviridae, Orthomyxoviridae, Bunyaviridae, Rhabdoviridae, Poxviridae, Herpesviridae, Baculoviridae, and Hepadnaviridae.

25. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the virus is HVJ.

26. (new) The kit according to claim 14, wherein the virus is derived from a wild-type or a recombinant-type virus.

27. (new) The kit according to claim 14, wherein the virus is derived from a virus belonging to a family selected from the group consisting of Retroviridae, Togaviridae, Coronaviridae, Flaviviridae, Paramyxoviridae, Orthomyxoviridae, Bunyaviridae, Rhabdoviridae, Poxviridae, Herpesviridae, Baculoviridae, and Hepadnaviridae.

28. (new) The kit according to claim 14, wherein the virus is HVJ.

29. (new) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of inactivating the virus.

30. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein said virus is derived from a wild-type or a recombinant-type virus.

31. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the virus is derived from a virus belonging to a family selected from the group consisting of Retroviridae, Togaviridae, Coronaviridae, Flaviviridae, Paramyxoviridae, Orthomyxoviridae, Bunyaviridae, Rhabdoviridae, Poxviridae, Herpesviridae, Baculoviridae, and Hepadnaviridae.

32. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the virus is HVJ.